

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

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### **STILWELL OUTLINES REQUIREMENTS OF NEW VOTER ID LAW**

INDIANAPOLIS – With Hoosiers now required to provide photo identification in order to vote on Election Day, State Rep. Russ Stilwell (D-Boonville) today offered guidelines to ensure all people get the proper ID.

"The next statewide elections in Indiana are not until May 2006, but it is important that we educate all Hoosiers about the new ID requirements that were passed by the Republican majorities in the Indiana General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Mitch Daniels," Stilwell said. "I opposed these new requirements because they will make it very difficult for many people – particularly seniors and those on fixed incomes – to vote. However, since the law is in effect, I want to do everything humanly possible to make sure those who want to vote can do so."

To cast a ballot, a person must have government-issued identification that contains the person's name, a photograph and an expiration date. Stilwell said a driver's license will cover that requirement, in most instances.

"If you cannot provide a photo ID at the polls, you will have to cast a provisional ballot," Stilwell said. "This provisional ballot can take the place of a regular ballot, but in order for it to be counted, the voter must appear before the county election board within 13 days after the election and either produce an ID or sign an affidavit stating that he or she cannot obtain a photo ID because he or she is indigent or has a religious objection to being photographed."

In order to apply for a new driver's license or permit or a photo ID at a local license branch, a person must provide several different types of documentation. These are classified as primary documents (such as a birth certificate, passport or military photo IDs), secondary documents (bank statements, academic transcripts, paycheck stubs, major credit or bank cards, and insurance, Medicare and Medicaid cards) and proof of Indiana residency documents (voter registration cards, Indiana property deeds or tax assessments and current bills and benefit statements).

Applicants have two options in providing documents. One option is a primary document, proof of a Social Security number, one secondary document and one proof of Indiana residency document. A second option is two primary documents, a proof of Social Security number and a proof of Indiana residency. Anyone seeking a simple photo ID must provide similar documentation, but proof of a Social Security number is not required.

In addition, anyone registering to vote by mail in a county for the first time must provide a form of ID with their registration, such as valid photo identification, a paycheck, utility statement or something that shows current name and address. If you vote in person by absentee at your local county clerk's office, you must show a photo identification.

"If you have any questions about obtaining a photo ID, I encourage you to contact election officials at either state or local levels," Stilwell said. "The right to vote is one of the most cherished rights we have as Americans, and I do not want to see Hoosiers deprived because they do not have a photo ID."

Stilwell said residents of the four counties that make up the 74<sup>th</sup> House District should contact their local county clerk's offices with question. In Dubois County, call 812-481-7035. In Perry County, call 812-547-3741. In Spencer County, call 812-649-6017. In Warrick County, call 812-897-6161.